REJECT WEAPONS COMPANIES AT UF

In power

The University of Florida
Divest Coalition

@ufdivestcoalition
ufdivestcoalition@proton.me

Produced by the University of Florida Divest Coalition, September 2024.

Distribute widely for a demilitarized university.

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The aftermath of a strike hitting a civilian hospital in Gaza, August 2024.
AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana

UF Engineering partners with more than 16 weapons companies (WCs), and they are hungry for bright engineering students like you. WCs are everywhere on campus – you'll see them in mentorship programs, student club sponsorships, classes, career fairs, internships, competitions, and more.

WCs cause immense environmental harm, violate workers' rights and are complicit in the deaths of thousands of innocent people. They hide their harm by masquerading as diverse, inclusive, innovative, and "ethical" employers. They hide from researchers the ultimate purpose of their work. They militarize our universities and make us complicit in their profit from violence.

You have the choice to refuse to work with WCs. Instead, you can use your creativity and labor to better our local and global communities by working for ethical and sustainable companies and institutions.

THE VEIL OVER OUR EYES AND THE VIOLENT REALITY

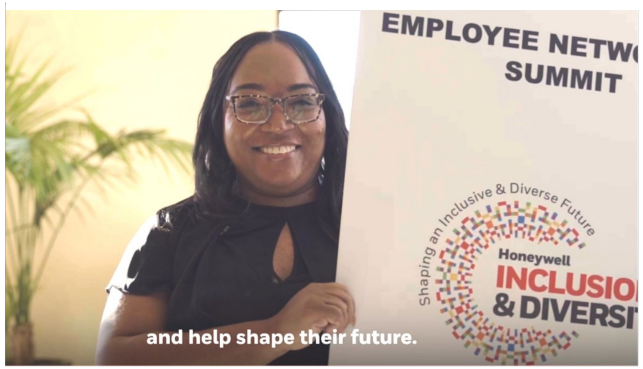
Weapons companies (WCs) profit from war. As private, for-profit corporations, they produce the means of mass murder for nations worldwide.

WEAPONS ARE A BLOODY, $500 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

WCs, nonetheless try to hide the blood of their industry. Instead of "weapons" or "arms", WCs use euphemisms like "defense" or associate with innocuous terms like "aerospace" or "manufacturing". They disguise their research aims with neutral terminology like AI or contested territory navigation.

WCs also try to appear socially progressive. They advertise hiring workers of all races, ethnicities, genders, and sexualities. WCs donate to social causes, for example Lockheed Martin with Pride and the Nature Conservancy. WCs say they allocate millions of dollars to sustainability in operations, seemingly unaware that the social pillar of sustainability would imply not harming innocent people.

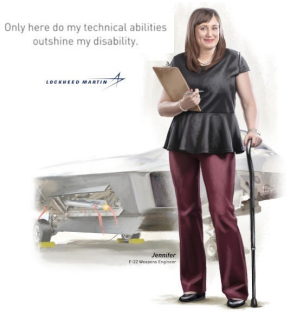
A General Dynamics bomb dropped by an F-16 fighter jet. May 2021 via Agence France Presse



Left: Screencap from Honeywell video about their Black Employee Network. August 2024.

Bottom left: Lockheed Martin advertisement on abilityjobfair.org featuring disabled workers. 2024.

Bottom right: Orlando Pride participants with a Pride banner with Lockheed Martin's logo. 2019.



In reality, WCs are implicated in environmental harm, labor violations, and genocide.

Weapons company RTX has refused to detoxify many of its manufacturing sites across the US. In St. Petersburg, FL, an RTX site leaked carcinogens into a neighborhood's water supply. This has also happened in Arizona, California, and Kansas. During the Iraq War, KBR, an offense contractor, created toxic burn pits that poisoned both US veterans and Iraqi civilians.

WCs also tread upon our rights as workers. Lockheed Martin was fined $78.4 million for 45 labor violations since 2000, involving discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. RTX was fined $76.5 million for 36 labor violations since 2000. They also used illegal tactics to scare workers into accepting less pay during union negotiations.

WCs were and are involved in civilian brutalizations, in Armenia (Mauser, 1915), Rwanda (Mil-Tec, 1994), and Gaza, in operations Swords of Iron (2023-ongoing), Guardian of the Walls (2021), Protective Edge (2014), and Cast Lead (2008), killing thousands of civilians each time. The defense industry is a misnomer - it is better named the "offense", "mass murder", or "genocide" industry.

WCs still gaslight us in justifying their crimes. Lockheed Martin says it's addressing "national defense and threats to it." Northropp Grumman says "[weapons] systems actually promote global human rights proliferations." RTX says weapons are "opportunities" and "benefit."

WHO ARE THE WEAPONS COMPANIES AT UF?

RTX / Raytheon Technologies

Makes missiles and bombs such as the GBU-28 dropped by fighter jets, as well as components for fighter jets, military drones, and warships.

At UF as: club sponsors, research sponsors, and IPPD participants. Hosts student competitions

Subsidiaries

Pratt & Whitney
An RTX Business

At UF as: career fair recruiters

LOCKHEED MARTIN

Creates F-16 and F-35 fighter jets. Makes launchers for cluster munitions, missiles. Implicated in Saudi war crimes against Yemen.

At UF as: career fair recruiters, club sponsors, scholarship sponsors, Hosts student engineer competition.

Subsidiaries

leidos

At UF as: research sponsors.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Produces missiles, guided projectiles, and components for Lockheed Martin's F-16 and F-35 killers, Apache helicopters, and missile ships.

At UF as: club sponsors and IPPD participants.

L3HARRIS™

Produces components for nuclear weapons, Boeing's JDAM, Lockheed-Martin's F-35, and Sa'ar 5 and 6 warships.

At UF as: career fair recruiters, club sponsors, fellowship sponsors, and sponsors of a speaker series

Honeywell

Makes components for F-35 fighter jets and bombs.

At UF as: career fair recruiters, research sponsors, and IPPD

GENERAL DYNAMICS

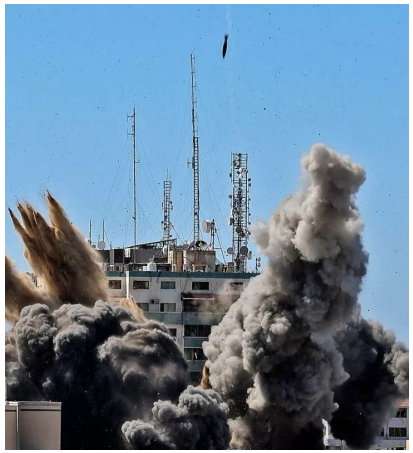
Largest US bomb-maker. Produces bombs gifted to foreign military, supplied through US military aid program. Produces fighter jet components.

At UF as: club sponsors.

BOEING

Produces Joint Direct Attack Munition system that transforms unguided bombs to guided ones, used to destroy civilian buildings. Previous bombs used tungsten to increase impulse and lethality.

At UF as: club sponsors. Also has off-campus sponsorships



Joint Direct Attack Munition dropped on civilian media tower, May 2021. Mahmud Hams/AFP/Getty Images via Newsweek

GENERAL ELECTRIC (GE)

GE engines are used in Boeing F-15 and L-M F-16 fighter jets as well as Apache and Black Hawk helicopters. Energy technologies are used in illegal occupations.

At UF as: club sponsors.

Gulfstream

Provides militaries with "Special Electronic Mission Aircraft" for intelligence and surveillance

.At UF as: career fair recruiters.

HII HUNTINGTON INGALLS

Creates nuclear and non-nuclear warships

At UF as: research sponsors.

KRATOS

Creates drone systems and bomb components

At UF as: club sponsors.

THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL-UNIVERSITY COMPLEX

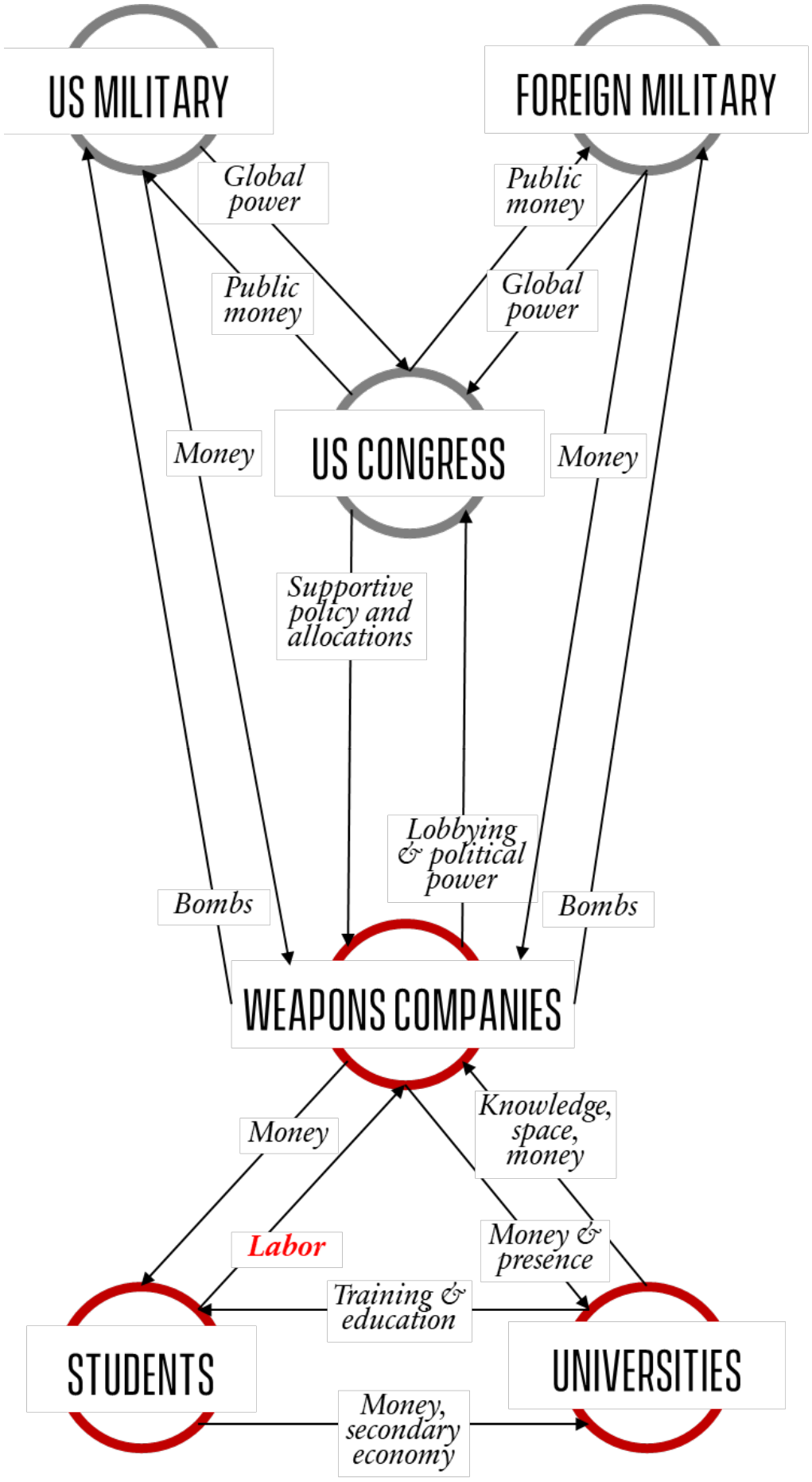
WCs profit through alignments with militaries, US Congress, and universities in trades of money, knowledge, and power. WCs get billions of dollars in military contracts to make arms. Congress authorizes defense allocations, including foreign state aid. WCs in turn lobby for supportive Congressmembers.

Universities are the brain-factories of the complex. WCs flood universities with research grants, class sponsorships, and fellowships. In return, universities support WCs through investments of the endowment, research, and student recruitment.

The UF School of Engineering received roughly $40 million from 2021-2024 to do "defense" research; seven projects came from RTX, Honeywell, Boeing, Leidos, and Huntington Ingalls. RTX is also a client of research hub UF Innovate.

WCs try to hide behind innocuous, general projects like AI research, which in theory can go towards social benefits like smart cities or autonomous driving.

University research can be used by WCs in creating surveillance and targeting systems. IDF weapons Gospel and Lavender identify "likely" target people and buildings with minimal human oversight. "Where's Daddy" kills families in their homes - 37,000 civilians have been marked for death using AI.



THE LABOR PIPE LINE

Start here, young first-year engineer.

*The **Labor Pipeline** primes students by appearing innocuous and beneficial, sponsoring students of diverse classes and backgrounds.*

CLUBS
Engineering clubs like Swamp Rocket Launch and Freshman Leadership Engineering Group get WC sponsorships

SCHOLARSHIPS
L3Harris and Lockheed-Martin have UF-specific grants for students

SPEAKERS
L3Harris sponsors events to bring WC professionals to network on campus

COMPETITIONS
Lockheed Martin sponsors an "Engineering Ethics" competition where UF students have competed.

MENTORSHIP
Society for Women Engineers has WE Rise, where the industry preens women to work for WCs.

CLASSES
RTX and Northropp Grumann sponsor the IPPD, a capstone to produce designs for clients.

COOP/INTERNSHIP
UF encourages engineering students to do internships, heavily advertised by WCs

CAREER FAIRS
WCs attend to identify and recruit students for internships and full-time work.

End here, primed to build weapons

The Pipeline sweetens students to the salary of offense manufacturing, trains them to do the work, and hides the ugly reality of weapons.

The most insidious way UF and other universities partner with WCs is the labor pipeline. The pipeline surrounds students with pro-WC propaganda. In return, they get educated labor.

The pipeline makes WCs look sexy to UF students. Sponsorships erase the dirtiness of genocide and other crimes, appearing variously apolitical, progressive when it suits them. At career fairs, they approach students hungry for jobs with high salaries and a foot-in-the-door in the industry; they even approach with donuts to sweeten the deal. In mentorships and classes, they appear nurturing while priming students for the industry.

Even if engineers want out of complicity with WCs, they are cornered in by pay cuts. According the the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2023, the median salary for offense engineers was 30% higher than that for mechanical, industrial, and environmental engineers.

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

You're more powerful than you think. You have the talent and intelligence that WCs crave — it can be used for so much better.

Here's what you can do to support a demilitarized university and more ethical world:

- Ask your engineering club to invite reps and sponsors from sustainable, non-weapons firms
- Solicit scholarships, fellowships, grants, and mentors from non-weapons sources like NSF
- Speak out against working for RTX or Honeywell in the IPPD senior capstone and for more locally beneficial or sustainable lines of work
- Do not participate in Lockheed Martin's "Ethics in Engineering" or RTX's Invitational Business Case competitions
- At networking events, ask WC representatives about their company's ethical track record. For example, you can ask "I was interested in working with your company, but I found 37 environmental violation lawsuits against your company. Can you explain why that is?"
- Encourage the School of Engineering to deepen partnerships with innovative enterprises in health, sustainable energy, local government, and climate resilience.
- Spread this message to other engineering students! Many students may feel similarly about these issues but are scared and do not know what to do.

UF students protest the genocide, April 2024. Divya Kumar, Tampa Bay Times

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You can do your own research on a company's ethics too! Through the QR code, you can learn about a company's:

- local and global impacts on the environment and humanity
- track record with our rights as employees
- (non-)alignment with your passions

Doing this research benefits your cover letters and interviews by demonstrating your passion and knowledge about a company. It also helps you find work where you can deeply explore your own passions.

Linktr.ee for identifying ethical employers

AVOID THESE CAREER FAIR RECRUITERS

- ***ABB Tech.*** — makes energy infrastructure in West Bank
- ***Black & Veatch*** — builds infrastructure for occupations in West Bank and Gaza
- ***BNY Mellon*** — invests in weapons companies
- ***CACI*** — tortured prisoners in Iraq War
- ***CAE*** — designs simulation components for weapons companies and militaries
- ***CDM Smith*** — builds and engineers military bases
- ***CEMEX*** — sister co. Readymix makes concrete in West Bank
- ***Gulfstream Aerospace*** — builds surveillance aircraft for militaries
- ***Honeywell*** — makes components for fighter jets
- ***L3Harris*** — Produces material for nuclear weapons
- ***Lockheed Martin*** — Produces F-16 and F-35 fighter jets used by multiple militaries
- ***Pratt and Whitney*** — RTX subsidiary
- ***Veolia Water Tech.*** — sister company built transportation infrastructure in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem

...AND CONSIDER THESE ONES

- *Arthrex* — medical orthopedics maker
- *Amgen* — biopharmaceuticals maker
- *Benesch* — Transportation engineering firm; Jacksonville
- *Davey Resource Group* — Natural resources, utility, wetland consulting firm
- *NextEra Energy*: Wind and solar energy producer; Martin County
- *Rehrig Pacific* — Waste and supply chain engineering; Orlando
- *Richard Adams Engineering* — structural engineering consultants; Tampa metro
- *Stonefield* — Civil engineering consultants; Tampa
- *Trane Tech.* — commercial and industrial building and energy tech
- *Woodard and Curran* — Sustainability, water, and enviro consulting; Tampa

Aerospace alternatives not at Career Fair:

- *Cobham Satcom* — satellite and radio manufacturer (no defense)
- *Kepler Comms* — in-space internet and communications
- *Rocket Lab* — satellite and spacecraft manufacturer, explicitly refuses to support weapons
- *NASA* — US space program, aeronautics and space research

SOURCES/MORE INFO

Database of companies involved in arms, borders, or occupation: https://investigate.afsc.org/

Canada-focused source for companies involved in Palestinian genocide: https://worldbeyondwar.org/canadastoparmingisrael/

UN list of WCs in Israel: https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/states-and-companies-must-end-arms-transfers-israel-immediately-or-risk

UF entanglement with WCs: company, UF, club, School of Engineering websites

UF research entanglement: public records request

WCs in Armenian genocide: https://www.dw.com/en/new-report-details-germanys-role-in-armenian-genocide/a-43268266

WCs in Rwandan genocide: https://www.dw.com/en/new-report-details-germanys-role-in-armenian-genocide/a-43268266

Avoiding: Black and Veatch: https://www.bv.com/projects/black-veatch-provides-e-and-construction-management-services-west-bank-and-gaza-through/

Avoiding Gulfstream: https://www.gulfstreamnews.com/en/news/?id=e677e8fd-ea33-446e-8d51-15a0c4a65e9d

Avoiding CACI: https://electronicintifada.net/content/israeli-link-possible-us-torture-techniques/5071

Avoiding CDM Smith: https://mapliberation.org/plain/entities/CDMSmith.html

KBR and burn pits: https://www.npr.org/2019/01/16/685657005/veterans-claiming-illness-from-burn-pits-lose-court-fight

WCs and revenue: https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-fact-sheets/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-2022

Vox article on AI and bombing: https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/24151437/ai-israel-gaza-war-hamas-artificial-intelligence

Quotes on major WCs and profit: https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/01/28/big-war-ceos-theres-chaos-in-the-world-and-our-prospects-are-excellent/

Left: a UF Divest teach-in at the Liberated Zone, May 2024. @ufdivestcoalition
Right: UF Divest and allies protest Lockheed Martin in Ocala, July 2024. @ufdivestcoalition

UF Divest Coalition is an alliance of UF students, organizations, faculty, staff, and community members and organizations of Gainesville and greater Alachua County. We aim to unearth UF's connections to grave violations of human rights and international law. We want to direct UF's research, investments, and activities away from genocide and occupations and towards creating peaceful, sustainable futures.

At the end of Spring 2024, we came together in UF's Plaza of the Americas to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire of military bombardment of civilians. To this end, we created the Liberated Zone and occupied the Plaza continuously, night and day, for 31 days. In solidarity with student encampments, in the US and globally, the UF Divest Coalition called upon UF to take a stance against war and genocide and towards peace.